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## KENNEDY, KERRY, FRANK AND MCGOVERN ANNOUNCE NEW FEDERAL FUNDING FOR WASTEWATER PROJECTS IN FALL RIVER AND NEW BEDFORD

Washington, DC-Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry and Congressmen Barney Frank and James McGovern today announced that a total of \$1 million in new federal funding for sewer infrastructure improvements in the cities of Fall River and New Bedford has been included, at the lawmakers' request, in the 2006 appropriations bill for the Environmental Protection Agency. The legislation has already passed the House, and the Senate is expected to pass the bill today.

"I am pleased that the EPA funding bill once again recognizes the financial burden imposed on New Bedford and Fall River as they comply with the Clean Water Act," Frank said. "While I will continue to push for comprehensive reform of the Act as a long term approach to financing this sort of municipal sewer project, the money we are announcing today, the twelfth year in a row we have included funds for the two cities in the appropriations bill, will help Fall River and New Bedford hold down rates. I look forward to continued collaboration with my colleagues and local officials in the effort to help defray the costs of these projects."

"New Bedford and Fall River are doing their best to improve water quality, hold down sewer rates, and comply with the Clean Water Act, but the federal government isn't doing enough," Senator Kennedy said. "I'm grateful that we were able to secure this richly deserved funding, but I also believe we need to change our priorities in Washington. Municipalities shouldn't be forced to bear so much of this burden."

Senator Kerry said "I am proud to have worked with Senator Kennedy, Congressman Frank and Congressman McGovern to once again help secure the much-needed funds to keep down sewer rates in Fall River and New Bedford and help them comply with the Clean Water Act. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the local, state and federal level to gain additional resources for these important projects."

"I'm pleased that once again the delegation has secured federal funding for ratepayer relief in Bristol County," Rep. McGovern said. "Fall River and New Bedford continue to work to improve their wastewater infrastructure, and the federal government must continue to be a partner in those efforts."

Under the new appropriations bill, Fall River and New Bedford will each receive \$500,000 for sewer improvements in the federal fiscal year that begins on October 1, 2005. With the addition of the funds that are being announced today, the Senators and House Members who

represent Fall River and New Bedford will have secured some \$33 million in direct federal assistance for the sewer projects in the two communities since 1995.

Fall River is in the second phase of the court ordered \$115 million Combined Sewer Overflow abatement project, the centerpiece of which is a massive underground tunnel passing through bedrock along much of its length.

New Bedford, which has already constructed a wastewater treatment plant at a cost of roughly \$100 million, is now working on its own series of Combined Sewer Overflow upgrades, with an estimated aggregate cost of over \$100 million.

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